

JUNETEENTH

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President. I rise today to recognize the annual commemoration of Juneteenth, the date on which the news of the end of slavery reached the enslaved peoples in the Southwestern States. On June 19, 1865, MG Gordon Granger and Union soldiers communicated the news of liberation to one of the last remaining confederate outposts in Galveston, TX. Over 2 years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, the enslaved individuals there had yet to hear the good news.

Over the years, African-American communities nationwide and in Maryland have developed rich traditions around this historically significant date. For all Americans, Juneteenth offers an opportunity to reflect upon and to educate ourselves further about the terrible history of slavery and its enduring legacy. The story of Juneteenth also reminds me of the gap between the values and principles that we espouse and the realities of life for everyday Americans, in particular the most vulnerable.

I have long supported legislation to add Juneteenth National Independence Day to the list of legal Federal public holidays. After many years, I am pleased that the Senate has finally passed it and hope that the House will act swiftly to send this bill to President Biden's desk.

In commemoration of this year's holiday, I want to take the opportunity to reflect in more depth on a couple of ways that we continue to see the clear impact of slavery today. One of the most apparent legacies is access—or should I say lack of access—to the ballot box. Study after study and the lived experiences of so many individuals tell us that Black Americans still experience greater barriers to voting than White Americans. One of the most important tenets of our comprehensive legislation to protect democracy, the For the People Act, S. 1, is enacting a Federal floor when it comes to voting rights standards.

Spreading false or misleading information intended to suppress voting and intimidate the electorate remains one of the most effective methods used to keep individuals, particularly Black Americans and other racial minorities, from voting. Advancements in our means of communication, including the rise of social media platforms, have made it easier for bad actors to use these strategies. During the 2020 election cycle, robocalls targeting communities of color in Michigan, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, and New York contained false information about how the recipients' data would be shared if they voted by mail. I have introduced legislation, along with Senator KLOBUCHAR, to address these problems by prohibiting individuals from knowingly deceiving others about the time, place, eligibility, or procedures of participating in a Federal election. Our bill to ban deceptive practices, S. 1840, would

also prohibit individuals from intentionally hindering, interfering with, or preventing another person from voting, registering to vote, or aiding another person to vote or register to vote in a Federal election.

In 2020, more than 5 million individuals and as many as one in five African Americans in some States were disenfranchised because of voter suppression laws.

Many voter disenfranchisement laws today come from post-Civil War efforts to stifle the 14th and 15th Amendments. Between 1865 and 1880, at least 13 States enacted or expanded their felony disenfranchisement laws. One of the primary goals of these laws was to prevent Black Americans from voting. At least 11 of those States still bar individuals on felony probation or parole from voting. Under our Constitution, there is no legitimate justification for denying people from having a voice in our democracy. Disenfranchising citizens who are living and working in the community serves no compelling State interest and hinders their rehabilitation and reintegration into society. My Democracy Restoration Act, S. 481, would restore Federal voting rights for all individuals immediately upon release from incarceration.

I am proud that both my Deceptive Practices and Voter Intimidation Act and my Democracy Restoration Act are included within the For the People Act.

Finally, I want to end by commending my home State of Maryland for bipartisan restorative justice work over the past several years. The Maryland General Assembly voted nearly unanimously in 2019 to investigate the more than 40 documented racial terror lynchings that took place in Maryland between 1854 and 1933, to hold public hearings in communities where racial terror lynchings occurred, and to develop recommendations that are rooted in restorative justice for addressing, engaging, and reconciling those communities. The commission the State established has received supplemental funding from the U.S. Department of Justice's Emmett Till Cold Case Investigations Program for its efforts. Because of this work, Governor Hogan issued posthumous pardons last month for 34 victims of racial lynchings in Maryland.

This Juneteenth, I encourage all Americans to recognize Juneteenth as an opportunity to reflect upon our Nation's shared history, to recognize the enduring effects of slavery on our society, and to commit to being involved in the redemptive work toward a more just and perfect Union.

NATIONAL SEERSUCKER DAY

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, today I rise in recognition of seersucker manufacturers and enthusiasts across the United States. I wish everyone a happy National Seersucker Day. This uniquely American fashion has a

storied history dating back to 1909. The first seersucker suit was designed by Joseph Haspel at his Broad Street facility in New Orleans, LA. Louisiana is proud to have played an important part in introducing the country to seersucker apparel.

This lightweight cotton fabric, known for its signature pucker, has been worn and enjoyed by Americans across the country during the hot summer months. Mr. Haspel said it best: "Hot is hot, no matter what you do for a living."

In the 1990s, Seersucker Day was established by Members of this Chamber to honor this unique American fashion. I proudly resumed this tradition in 2014 in the U.S. House of Representatives and continued this tradition in the U.S. Senate. This year, I wish to designate Thursday, June 17, as the eighth annual National Seersucker Day. I encourage everyone to wear seersucker on this day to commemorate this traditionally American clothing.

TRIBUTE TO MAX ENGLISH

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, SGM Max English served the Nation honorably for over 28 years in the U.S. Army. He fought in combat operations throughout World War II and bravely led 36 men as a platoon sergeant in the Battle of the Bulge. His extraordinary service continued to the Pacific theater in the waning months of the war. Only a few years later, he returned to the Pacific to fight in the Korean war.

During his service in the Second World War, Sergeant Major English was injured in Germany and was awarded the Purple Heart. During the Battle of Bulge, Sergeant Major English fought and repelled repeated Nazi attacks and ultimately helped break the back of Hitler's forces. After sustained combat operations in Europe, Sergeant Major English served in the Southern Pacific theater and pursued the treacherous mission of rooting out irreconciled Japanese Imperial Army forces after their country's unconditional surrender.

A member of "the greatest generation", Sergeant Major English again answered the call of duty when he was deployed to the Korean war. There, his unit was tasked with repatriating Americans formerly held as prisoners of war during the conflict. The heroic actions of Sergeant Major English's unit directly contributed to the implementation of an armistice to stop the fighting on the Korean Peninsula.

Sergeant Major English is a man of exceptional character and commitment to the United States who embodies the American spirit and serves as an inspiration for today's fighting men and women. I join all grateful Americans in congratulating him for his outstanding service and patriotism and thank him for a job well done.

TRIBUTE TO JANET PIRAINO

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam President, I rise today to honor the service of Janet Piraino, my State director, who will retire from my office and the U.S. Senate on July 19, 2021.

Janet has spent her professional career dedicated to serving Wisconsinites. A graduate of the University of Wisconsin—Madison, Janet forged a path in public service early in her career. Her first job was as a field organizer for a race for Wisconsin Governor, followed by nearly 10 years as a legislative policy advisor to Wisconsin legislators in the State Capitol.

Janet quickly earned recognition as a valued staff member and committed leader. Her experiences working with both legislators and constituents led to her assuming positions in a variety of roles, both at the local and Federal government level.

Over the past 30-plus years, Janet has served in a variety of capacities with many Wisconsin elected officials, including 7 years as State director for U.S. Senator Russ Feingold; 2 years as chief of staff for Congressman Tom Barrett; 8 years as chief of staff for Madison Mayor Dave Cieslewicz; and 2 years as district director for U.S. Congressman MARK POCAN. Outside of her roles in government, Janet has also worked as a special assistant for State relations at the University of Wisconsin System and as vice president for advancement at the Overture Center Foundation in Madison, where she led the charge to help transition this legacy performing arts venue from a city-run venue to a privately owned facility.

Janet is also an active member of many community organizations, including Madison's Downtown Rotary. She spends considerable time engaged in meeting with others interested in pursuing a career in public service and has mentored countless Wisconsinites over these many years.

Outside of the office, Janet enjoys spending time with her partner of 20 years, J.R. Sims, their grandbaby, Titan Cairo Sims, and their enthusiastic pandemic puppy, Sadie. Janet also enjoys traveling and participating in organized bike rides, including the Door County Century and the Best Dam Bike Tour on her Wisconsin made Trek Madone. She is a devoted fan of the Milwaukee Bucks, especially Giannis Antetokounmpo, and is always eager to host friends and colleagues on her roof deck overlooking the Madison skyline.

I knew of Janet's can-do reputation and energetic commitment to public service long before she joined my Senate office in 2015, and I am delighted that she has become a valued member of our team. Along with my entire U.S. Senate staff, I wish her all the best as she begins a new chapter with her well-deserved retirement.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL DAVID W. TROTTER

Ms. ERNST. Madam President, as a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I rise to pay tribute to COL David W. Trotter, who has selflessly served our great country as a U.S. Army intelligence officer. He is a fellow alumnus of the Iowa State University Cyclone Battalion and a dear friend of mine.

Colonel Trotter will retire on November 30, 2021, after a successful 30-year military career as an accomplished leader, infantry, and intelligence officer. Dave's leadership abilities were evident early on. I met Dave early in my days at Iowa State, where he served as a personal mentor and driving factor to my own service to this great Nation. From those early days, he grew even more as a leader and soldier, ultimately completing a storied career at home and abroad, in peace and in war. It is fitting that we recognize his service to this great Nation.

Colonel Trotter was commissioned in 1992 upon graduating from Iowa State University as a distinguished military graduate with a bachelor in business. Dave served as an infantry platoon leader in Korea and a company executive officer at Fort Carson, CO. He then was selected as a company commander for 18 months with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment in Fort Lewis, WA. After command, he served as an operations officer for the Des Moines, IA, Recruiting Battalion before being selected for the prestigious 75th Ranger Regiment.

Upon arrival at the 75th Ranger Regiment in Fort Benning, GA, Dave served as an assistant intelligence officer. He then was selected again for command, where he served as the military intelligence detachment commander. Throughout his time in the 75th Ranger Regiment, Dave deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

As a field-grade officer, Dave served as an operations officer in the XVIII Airborne Corps, G2 section at Fort Bragg, NC. He then served as an operations officer and executive officer within the 525th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, where he also deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He then served again as an operations officer for the Intelligence and Security Command at Fort Belvoir, VA, before being selected for command of the Army Geospatial Intelligence Battalion at Springfield, VA.

After various staff positions, Dave served as the chief of staff, Afghanistan Ministry of Interior Advisory Group, where he deployed again to Afghanistan in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Freedom Sentinel. After a brief year on staff at Fort Huachuca, AZ, Dave deployed again in support of Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq, where he served as the III Corps G2. After redeployment, he was chosen to serve as the Army North senior intel-

ligence officer. He then would transfer once more to Joint Base San Antonio, Fort Sam Houston, TX, where he served as the executive officer to the commanding general of Army North, Fifth Army.

As his final assignment in uniform, COL David W. Trotter was selected to serve as the deputy commander for Joint Base San Antonio and the vice commander of the 502d Air Base Wing.

A highly decorated officer, Dave earned several service awards, including the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster and the Bronze Star with oak leaf cluster, for his service. He also earned the Ranger Tab, the Master Parachutist Badge, the Pathfinder Badge, and the Air Assault Badge.

Dave has deployed in support of combat operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria. He has served at every level and commanded with distinction at the company through brigade levels within the conventional force and within the Army's premier Special Operations Command. He and his family have sacrificed so much to ensure America can be what it is today.

David, congratulations on your successful career and well-deserved retirement. I want to thank you and your family for the sacrifices you have made over the past 30 years. I join my colleagues in Congress and all Americans as we express our deepest appreciation for your service, acknowledge you and your family's many accomplishments and sacrifices, and wish the very best for you, your wife Tami, and your son Ty in the future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO NADIA HEDAYAT

• Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Nadia for her hard work as an intern in the Senate Republican Conference. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Nadia is a native of Maryland. She is a student at American University, where she studies psychology and communication: film and media arts. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Nadia for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey. •

TRIBUTE TO DR. SOPHIA L. THOMAS

• Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, it is with great pride that I recognize a constituent of mine, Sophia L. Thomas, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, PPCNP-BC,